CAMERON KROETSCH
City Councillor

WARD 2

April 8, 2026

Anne Mark
Director of Programs
Catherine Donnelly Foundation

Letter of Support for Durand Neighbourhood Land Trust Co-operative Funding Application

I am writing as Councillor for Ward 2 at the City of Hamilton to express my strong support for the Durand Neighbourhood Land Trust Co-operative initiative led by Caroline Co-op.

I have known Emily Power, President of Caroline Co-op, for over a decade through our community organizing work. She is a committed, capable leader who brings both vision and follow through to advancing affordable housing.

Caroline Co-op's founding in 2024, when tenants successfully organized to purchase their building and convert it into a non-profit housing co-operative, demonstrates what is possible.

I was proud to support this effort through an $84,000 forgivable loan from the Ward 2 reserve. This initiative builds on that success by creating a vehicle to acquire at risk rental housing and preserve it as permanently affordable, resident controlled co-operative housing.

The Durand neighbourhood in Ward 2 is one of the most renter dense areas in the Province and home to the greatest density of renters in Hamilton, with 77% of Ward 2 residents renting their homes.

Many Ward 2 residents live in purpose built, privately owned rental buildings. This makes tenants more vulnerable to renovictions, rising rents, and displacement.

I regularly hear from tenants in crisis across Ward 2, and I strongly support solutions that expand non profit ownership and give residents greater control over their housing.

The City of Hamilton's Housing Sustainability and Investment Roadmap identifies acquisition as a key strategy, and the City's new $5.5 million municipal acquisition fund is an important step forward. I have supported directing a significant portion of these funds toward tenant led co-operative conversions - exactly the kind of work this initiative advances.

I encourage the Catherine Donnelly Foundation to support this timely and impactful project.

Sincerely,

Cameron Kroetsch

Cameron Kroetsch
Ward 2 City Councillor, City of Hamilton
Cameron.Kroetsch@hamilton.ca